

Bylaws for the Senior Tar Heel Legislature of North Carolina

Article I: Name

The Name of This Organization

Shall Be the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature

Hereafter Referred to as the NCSTHL

Article II: Purpose

- Section A. To provide information and education to Senior Citizens on the legislative process and matters being considered by the General Assembly.
- Section B. To promote citizen involvement and advocacy concerning aging issues before the General Assembly.
- Section C. To assess the legislative needs of older citizens by convening a forum modeled after the General Assembly.
- Section D. To provide older North Carolinians an opportunity to become more knowledgeable about the legislative process.
- Section E. To develop a nonpartisan forum for older North Carolinians to discuss senior citizens' issues.

Article III: Organization

- Section A. The body shall be unicameral and shall consist of 100 delegates.
- Section B. There shall be one delegate and one alternate from each county and delegate(s)-at-large. (Delegates-at-large are Past Speakers who reside in North Carolina and are not elected to represent a county. They are ex-officio non-voting members).

Article IV: Selection of Delegates

Section A.

Process:

1. Selection of delegates and alternates will be conducted independently by each Area Agency on Aging which will be responsible for planning the selection and for conducting a publicity campaign in their area.
2. The delegates shall be duly selected pursuant to procedures developed by the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Aging, and approved by the Secretary of the Department in consultation with senior citizens advocacy groups.

Section B.

Qualifications and Eligibility:

1. Any resident satisfying state and local county resident requirements who is 60 years of age or older may be a delegate or an alternate for the county in which he or she resides.
2. Each delegate or alternate shall serve for a two year term. Each selected delegate or alternate shall serve in all regular sessions of this body and called sessions and on all committees to which appointed or selected during his/her term of office.
3. The term of office shall be from the time of taking the oath of office until a successor takes the oath of office. The oath of office shall be administered at the beginning of the first session after selection.
4. An alternate delegate substituting for the delegate at any meeting may not assume the absent delegate's role as an elected or appointed officer or committee chair or vice chair. Alternate delegates shall be encouraged to participate in all NCSTHL activities, but will not have a vote in matters unless the regular delegate is absent and he/she notifies the alternate to take his/her seat at that time.

5. In the event a county is not represented by either the delegate or alternate delegate at two consecutive regular sessions, the respective Area Agency on Aging of such absentee county will be notified and will be encouraged to take appropriate action to ensure the county's representation at all future meetings.

Article V: Officers

- Section A. The NCSTHL shall have four officers: Speaker, Speaker Pro Tempore, Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore and Secretary. All qualified delegates shall be eligible for election.
- Section B. Duties of the officers shall be defined in the rules of the NCSTHL.

Article VI: Committees

- Section A. The Executive Committee, chaired by the Speaker, shall be composed of the officers and the chairs of the standing committees and issues committees. The immediate Past Speaker and Delegates-at-Large shall serve as ex-officio non-voting members of the Executive Committee.
- Section B. Standing committees shall be: Advocacy; Elections and Credentials; Finance; Public Relations; Resolutions; and Rules and Bylaws.
- Section C. The roles and responsibilities of the standing committees shall be in conformity with the rules of the NCSTHL.

Article VII: Meeting Schedule

- Section A.
1. There shall be an Annual Session of the NCSTHL beginning the third Tuesday in March in the Raleigh area.
 2. Other sessions shall be as stated in the Rules of the NCSTHL.
 3. Special sessions of the NCSTHL may be called by the Speaker.

Article VIII: Amendments

Section A.

These bylaws may be amended at any session of the NCSTHL under the following procedures:

1. Proposed amendments must be submitted by a delegation or a delegate to the chair of the Rules and Bylaws Committee.
2. Proposed amendments to the bylaws must be in the hand of the Chairman of the Rules and Bylaws Committee two weeks before the opening of a Session. Amendments will be discussed and acted upon by the Rules and Bylaws Committee at the Session. Recommended amendments to the bylaws then shall be sent: (a) to each Area Agency on Aging Director and that person shall distribute copies of such bylaws amendments to each delegate and alternate in their area no later than 30 days prior to the session at which it will be voted on, and (b) to the Director of the Division of Aging. At the Session, delegates will vote on any proposed amendments and either ratify or reject them.

Bylaws amendments will be in force from the date and time of the Session.

3. Proposed amendments submitted must be recommended by the Rules and Bylaws Committee to be brought to the floor of the full session.
4. Proposed amendments require a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the delegates present and voting at the session when an amendment is brought up on the floor of the full session.
5. Proposed amendments that are considered but not recommended by the Rules and Bylaws Committee may be brought to the floor by a delegate by a motion with a second and by a subsequent two-third (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting at that particular session for consideration by the full body. Disposition will be as required in 4 above.

Section A.

1. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (latest addition), shall govern the organization in all cases not inconsistent with the bylaws or the special rules of order.
2. These bylaws shall take effect immediately after ratification. Amendments shall take effect in the same manner unless otherwise stated in the amendments.